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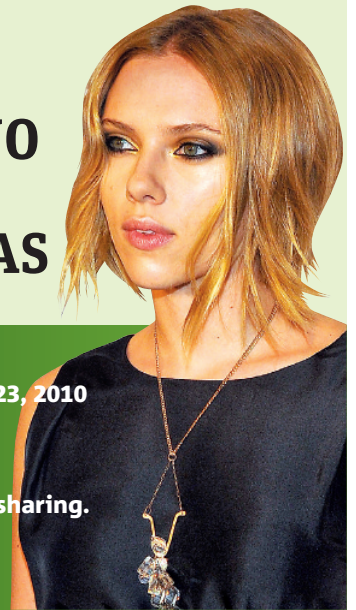
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**A CANADIAN  
CHRISTMAS  
TENORS BUILDING ON  
SUCCESS** {page 14}

**ROCKS  
WHERE SCARJO  
AND RYAN'S  
MARRIAGE WAS**

{page 19}



EDMONTON

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Thursday, December 23, 2010  
www.metronews.ca



News worth sharing.

**Cops. vs. kids**



► Sgt. Shane Darda goofed around with Jordan Sowan before their big game yesterday.

HEATHER MCINTYRE/METRO

## Cops and kids take to ice for shinny

The Edmonton Police Service's downtown division took on members of the McCauley community in an outdoor hockey game yesterday. This was the second annual McCauley Cup — an initiative started last year by Sgt. David Kabyn to build positive relationships with those in the community, especially kids.

## South plans firing drills

Rancor continues between the two Koreas {page 8}

## You're down to the wire

Last-minute gift ideas for you procrastinators {pages 23-27}

# \$30M for River Valley

- Alliance was lobbying for federal support for years
- Chair hopes trail construction can start in spring

The Capital Region is one step closer to housing the largest urban park in North America after \$30 million worth of federal funding was announced yesterday.

The money is for the River Valley Alliance's vision for the North Saskatchewan River Valley, stretching 18,000 acres from Devon to Fort Saskatchewan.

"This is truly remarkable news and really makes this concept a reality," said Sol Rolinger, chair of the alliance.

The money, announced by Rona Ambrose, MP for Edmonton-Spruce Grove, will be combined with \$50 million from the province and another \$30 million that still needs to be collected from the seven member municipalities.

That \$110 million will be used to create trails for about half of the 88-kilometre river valley where there currently aren't any, as well as footbridges. The leftover money will be used to acquire any land needed to complete the preferred route.

"(The river valley) is one of the jewels in

### Breakdown

- The River Valley Alliance is made up of the Town of Devon, Parkland County, Leduc County, City of Edmonton, Strathcona County, City of Fort Saskatchewan and Sturgeon County.
- This is the second contribution to the alliance from the feds. They put forward \$600,000 for the Plan of Action, which was announced in 2007.
- When the plan was announced, 88 per cent of residents in the Capital Region said it was the right thing to do with the river valley.

Edmonton, we already know that," said Ambrose.

"There is great will to get this done; that's the key."

The entire project, which consists of three phases, could cost more than \$600 million.

● HEATHER MCINTYRE

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## Accused in kids' deaths back in hospital

An Edmonton man charged in the death of two children missed his first court appearance because he is in hospital.

The man, 31, was to have been in provincial court yesterday to face two counts of first-degree murder, but the matter was put over.

The accused was treated in hospital for minor injuries when he was arrested by police at a townhouse in the city's north end late Sunday night.

Police had been called there to check on the well-being of two young children, but found the youngsters dead.

It wasn't specified in court if the suspect was back in hospital for the original injuries or if he had been hurt since being taken into custody.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Suncor hit with fine

Oilsands giant Suncor has been fined \$200,000 for dumping material harmful to fish into a northern Alberta river.

Suncor Energy Inc. was fined Tuesday after pleading guilty to federal Fisheries Act charges.

Environment Canada says the fine was for the release of effluent in 2008 from sediment ponds built near the Steepbank River north of Fort McMurray.

The material in the water was clay and other natural materials and did not include oilsands or tailings pond effluent, said an Environment Canada spokesman.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Diane Buckley has become good friends with Patches, a resident at Boyle Street Community Services in Edmonton's inner city.

# Spreading some comfort and joy

- Homeless woman content to help others like her this holiday season
- Home in Coal Lake is too crowded, family suffers from addictions

### Atmosphere

Lance Beswick, communications specialist with Boyle Street Community Services, said the holiday season changes the spirit around the shelter.

Just prior to last Christmas, Diane Buckley was supervising a housekeeping service at a work camp near Christina Lake in northern Alberta.

This Christmas, she's homeless.

"I would like to go home for Christmas," she said. "But there's no way to go home."

Coal Lake could be considered home for Buckley, 43. She was born on a reserve and spent time there and in Calgary before

working in Edmonton as a baker. She moved up north for the job, then back home because her mother was sick.

With no room for her there, she spent her last

► "I think there's a lot of wistfulness," he said. "I think a lot of our clients start thinking of other days, other joy-filled days when things were different, when times were happy."

\$300 on a cab ride here earlier this year.

She has a partner, Peter, and is in contact with most of her seven children, but they are spread out across the country.

So she spends her nights at the George Spady Centre, as she tends to drink, and her days volunteering at Boyle Street Community Services, helping serve breakfast and lunch and making sure to feed and play with the resident cats.

"I feel guilty for these people," she said of why she helps out. "They are my family."

And they may be the family she spends her holiday with. ● HEATHER MCINTYRE

## Human remains found after garage blaze

Human remains have been found in a burned-out garage in eastern Strathcona County, and RCMP have deemed the death suspicious.

A fire broke out early Sunday morning in the detached garage at a rural location.

"We want to make sure we conduct a thorough investigation from the starting point," said Const.

### Timing

A press release was issued yesterday, even though the body was found Sunday morning.

► "As far as the timing, we wanted people in the community to know why we had been out there," Henry explained. "There's nothing related to the suspicious death as for the timing."

Wally Henry of the Strathcona RCMP.

The blaze, which EMS and fire crews responded to at about 3:20 a.m., was

contained to the garage. The gender of the dead person is not yet known. An autopsy was scheduled for today. ● HEATHER MCINTYRE

### News in brief

#### Take a virtual ride on LRT

**PREVIEW.** A five-minute video now available on the city's website takes viewers on a virtual tour along the 3.3-kilometre North LRT line to NAIT.

When completed, the line will stretch from Churchill Station in downtown to the post-secondary institution.

The video can be viewed at [edmonton.ca/nlrt](http://edmonton.ca/nlrt). ● METRO

#### Syphilis cited as concern

**HEALTH.** A report by Dr. Andre Corriveau, Alberta's chief medical officer of health, says Alberta urgently needs to deal with a growing outbreak of syphilis that shows no signs of abating.

The report says there have been 26 recorded cases of babies being born with the potentially deadly disease in the past 10 years, and it warns it is spreading, with 267 confirmed cases last year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# 1

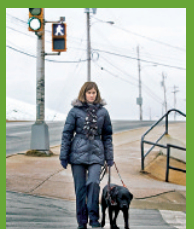
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- 3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to relevant content at [m.metronews.ca](http://m.metronews.ca)

### On the web at metronews.ca



**Familiar chirp at busy crosswalks set to be replaced by the 'Canadian melody.' Video at [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)**

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Insults, giggling, and a whiff of pot smoke among 2010 airport security complaints. Scan code for story.



## News in brief

## Family of seven loses their home

**MIRROR.** A family of seven in central Alberta is facing a bleak Christmas after a fire destroyed their home.

The fire happened early Tuesday in Mirror, about 65 kilometres northeast of Red Deer.

Firefighters believe the blaze erupted in the kitchen, but say an alarm allowed two adults and five children ranging in age from one month to 14 years to escape.

Dean Angell, a volunteer firefighter, says the oldest son ensured his siblings were clothed before running into the cold winter air.

But Angell says the lad could not get back into the home to get anything for himself.

The family is now staying with friends.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## AGA won't ban breastfeeding

**INCIDENT.** The Art Gallery of Alberta will no longer ban breastfeeding after a local mother complained that she was told to leave an exhibit room because food and drink weren't allowed around the artwork. Jill Janicki said she was in the provincial gallery with another mother on Friday when her seven-month-old daughter Lauren got hungry — and was told to move to the hallway by a security guard.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Oilers launch online game

**HOCKEY.** The Edmonton Oilers launched a preview of an online game yesterday for young fans. Rinksters will be a virtual hockey community where kids can create avatars, make trading cards and connect with friends in a safe environment. Pre-registration is available at rinksters.com. ● METRO

# Charities still feeling the pinch

► Walk-In Days continue at Amiskwaciy Academy today ► Christmas Bureau \$500,000 short of goal

Last week Maureen found out her 15-year-old daughter is pregnant, which added to the stress she's feeling as the holiday season approaches.

Maureen and her husband, who both work, have two daughters — aged 15 and 18 — their daughter's boyfriend and a roommate under their roof. And this is the first year they haven't had a Christmas tree.

"It's really tough," said Maureen. "It's just the economy. The price of everything has gone up."

Maureen was one of many who came out to the Christmas Bureau's Walk-In Days yesterday. The event, which is a partnership between the bureau, Santa's Anonymous and Adopt-A-



► Kevin Lowe, honorary chair of the Christmas Bureau, and Dianne Brown, campaign director.

Teen, provides last minute help for the holidays.

"Unfortunately there's always a need," said Kevin Lowe, honorary co-chair of the bureau, adding that when he first got involved in 1982 there was \$700,000 raised by about half a million people living in the city at the time. According to

Dianne Brown, campaign director, there has been 15 per cent growth in need over the last two years, and there are 73,000 mouths to feed this Christmas.

Because of the event, which will be on today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Maureen and her family will have a nice meal and

## Plea for help

Santa's Anonymous' plea for toys worked out, and other charities are hoping a call for help will do the same for them.

- The Adopt-A-Teen program hopes to provide \$50 Wal-Mart gift cards to needy teens and needs \$130,000 more to do so.
- Meals on Wheels has only raised about \$55,900 of a \$75,000 goal.
- The Edmonton Food Bank has a goal of \$900,000 plus 240,000 kilograms of food — and has collected less than 75 per cent of that.
- The Salvation Army has been hurting, as they are \$118,000 off a \$450,000 target.

gifts for the kids on Saturday. ● HEATHER MCINTYRE

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# Smoking bylaw not needed: Councillor

- ▶ Law would ban smoking in car with children present
- ▶ Already illegal to smoke in public buildings ▶ City also created bylaw to reduce cigarette butt litter



**HEATHER MCINTYRE**  
EDMONTON@METRONEWS.CA

Now that there are two municipalities in Alberta that have made it illegal to smoke in a vehicle when children are present, one may wonder when Edmonton will step on board with a bylaw of their own.

According to Coun. Bryan Anderson, that "when" is a big "if."

"(If) the province takes the lead on it, it would be easier to enforce," he said.

Anderson said he hasn't heard of the initiative being brought forward in Ed-

**"By and large, the majority of people in our jurisdiction are already following that line of thinking."**

**BRYAN ANDERSON,**  
EDMONTON COUNCILLOR

monton — and he's not sure it's needed.

"By and large, the majority of people in our jurisdiction are already following that line of thinking," he said.

The City of Leduc's bylaw (\$100 for first offence, \$200 for subsequent of-

fences), which was passed last week, will take effect July 2, 2011, following in the footsteps of the Town of Okotoks, which passed its bylaw back in 2008.

Leduc Mayor Greg Krischke said enforcing such a bylaw won't be easy, but that the city is counting on a public education campaign more than foot patrol enforcement.

Dr. Gerry Predy, Alberta's senior medical health officer, said he would like to see more communities in the province follow Leduc's initiative.

FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# Provinces win right to regulate in-vitro fertilization

► Justice Thomas Cromwell offers determining view in split vote ► Says many provisions fall under provinces

A divided Supreme Court of Canada has upheld the right of the provinces to regulate in-vitro fertilization. But the court said the federal government is within its rights in banning cloning and human hybrids.

The court issued a divided advisory opinion that grappled with the "weighty moral concerns" of assisted reproduction. It upheld in part a 2008 Quebec Court of Appeal decision that declared Ottawa overstepped itself in asserting its right to regulate the use of human sperm, eggs and embryos.

The court split 4-4-1 with Justice Thomas Cromwell

## Power imbalance

Four other judges upheld the right of the provinces to regulate health care.

Justices Louis Lebel and Marie Deschamps wrote that although assisted human reproduction "raises moral and ethical questions," an overriding federal criminal law was not justified.

offering the determining view in what amounted to a complex analysis of the time-honoured constitutional rights of provinces to

control health care.

Quebec filed a constitutional challenge to the 2004 federal Assisted Human Reproduction Act and was supported by three other provinces. The province argued that Ottawa was treading on provincial jurisdiction over health care.

The act regulated the use of sperm, eggs and embryos, while banning clones and hybrids. Ottawa maintained it had the right to make criminal laws and that the purpose of the act was to protect the "health, safety and public morals" of Canadians. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

## Christmas. Miracle



► In a photo taken earlier this month, Tracy Hermanstorfer watches as Coltyn offers dad Mike Hermanstorfer a bite of a french fry at their home in Colorado Springs, Colo.

ED ANDRIEKS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Happy to be alive, one year later

Tracy Hermanstorfer, now 34, went into cardiac arrest while preparing to give birth to Coltyn at Memorial Hospital in Colorado Springs on Dec. 24, 2009. Doctors quickly delivered Coltyn by emergency Cesarean section, but he appeared lifeless. Mike Hermanstorfer, who was at his wife's side when her heart stopped beating, thought he had lost both her and their newborn son. But doctors revived Coltyn as Hermanstorfer cradled him in his arms, and about 45 minutes later, a nurse told him his wife's pulse had inexplicably returned.

## Mayor had alliance: WikiLeaks

A U.S. diplomatic cable released by WikiLeaks says the mayor of Kingston, Jamaica, has acknowledged forging an alliance of convenience with an alleged drug baron to reduce crime in the sprawling slums. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

## Potential pardon stirs outrage



Did governor promise Billy the Kid pardon for testimony? Scan or go to [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca) for story.

## Family loses home in fire

A family in Brantford, Ont., has lost their home and their puppies in a fire. Brant County firefighters were on the scene for more than 12 hours as the blaze roared through a farmhouse overnight. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



# Harper Tories considering home-care plan

► Opposition Liberals have already promised a \$1-billion family-care initiative if they form government

The federal government is considering using the tax system to help Canadians take time off work to care for elderly or sick family members, says Finance Minister Jim Flaherty.

Flaherty said the problem was brought home to him during pre-budget consultations in the last few months. It has also been raised repeatedly by the opposition Liberals.

He didn't say he will propose measures in the next federal budget, but confirmed he has looked into the possibility and costs.

## Baby boomers

► The challenge of the elderly is expected to become more acute in Canada starting next year, when the first wave of the Baby Boom demographic bulge enters retirement age.

► While such a proposal would likely be popular in what is expected to be a pre-election budget, a major stumbling block is cost.

"There are some tax initiatives that have been suggested, we've costed

some, and it's an area where we have spent a fair amount of time ... It's fair to say the government is reviewing that area ... and the area of caregivers to persons with disabilities."

But he admitted a family-care program would be "expensive."

"We're not going to have any big new spending programs in the budget, but there will be re-allocations of some spending," he said. "Government programs don't have to go on forever."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## California. Evacuates



► A Laguna Beach police officer helps a woman across Pacific Coast Highway in Laguna Beach, Calif., yesterday.

DENIS POROV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Southern California awash in rain

Downtown Laguna Beach was closed by up to four feet of storm runoff. After days of relentless rain, Southern California is awaiting the most intense storm system yet, with evacuations ordered, roads covered by water and mud, and residents anxiously eyeing already saturated mountainsides denuded by wildfires.

## Argentina dictator sentenced

Former dictator Jorge Videla was sentenced to life in prison yesterday for the torture and murder of 31 prisoners, most were "shot while trying to escape" in the months after his military coup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Men guilty of suicide bomb plot

Three men who believed Islam was under threat from western nations were found guilty in an Australian court on Thursday of plotting a suicide attack against a Sydney army base.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Mob behind video game bombing

Reputed Chicago mobster Michael (The Large Guy) Sarno, accused of orchestrating the bombing of a rival video gaming company, was convicted yesterday, with four members of his alleged crew.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# Border drills raise Korea tensions

► Massive exercise will involve 800 troops ► 33 kilometres south of border

South Korea vowed yesterday to "completely punish" North Korea if it attacks again, and mobilized hundreds of troops, tanks and helicopters for a massive military exercise prompted by high tensions on the peninsula.

The firing drills planned for today near the Koreas' heavily armed land border signalled that South Korea is willing to risk further escalating tensions with North Korea, which shelled a southern island off the western coast on Nov. 23 and stirred up a war-like atmosphere.

The attack, which killed four people, was portrayed by Pyongyang as a retaliation for southern military exercises on Yeonpyeong

island that day.

South Korea has conducted 47 similar military drills this year, and it scheduled one more exercise for Thursday in response to the North Korean attack, an army officer said on condition of anonymity, citing department rules. Thursday's drill will be the biggest-ever wintertime joint firing exercise that South Korea's army and air force have staged, an army statement said.

"We will completely punish the enemy if it provokes us again like the shelling of Yeonpyeong Island," Brig. Gen. Ju Eun-sik, chief of the army's 1st armoured brigade, said separately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Big snow. U.S. west



► Cross country skiers in Crested Butte, Colo., yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/NATHAN BILLOW

## There's more coming

The U.S. National Weather Service has posted a winter storm warning for areas in Utah and the western mountains of Colorado. Flood warnings are also posted in Southern California from the same storm that reached from Hawaii to Colorado earlier this week.

## Heathrow boss forfeits bonus

Heathrow's boss announced yesterday he would give up his hefty bonus this year after the world's busiest international airport was crippled by snowy conditions. Air and train travel throughout Europe finally began to return to normal.

Temperatures have picked up in Britain and about 70 per cent of Heathrow's planned departures — some 900 flights — were expected to operate yesterday. Air-

lines are trying to clear a backlog of cancelled flights, after iced-over runways and planes triggered days of chaos and misery for those seeking to travel elsewhere for Christmas.

Eurostar, which offers train services between England, France and Belgium, said routes were operating a near-normal schedule. Still it urged on-ly customers with tickets to show up at terminals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Police don't waffle on charges

A 31-year-old man charged with mischief after throwing waffles on the ice at a Toronto Maple Leafs game says he did it out of frustration at the underperforming team.

"I'm just a normal Leafs fan and love them to death," Joseph Robb of Oakville, Ont., said yesterday in an interview.

**28** Toronto currently stands 28th in the 30-team league with a 12-17-4 record. The Leafs were trailing 5-1 at the time of the waffle toss.

day in an interview.

His love affair will be from a distance, however, after being barred from the Air Canada Centre.

Further punishment could follow from a January court appearance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# Canada's green reputation at stake: Minister

► Ex-environment minister was poised to step in over oilsands: Cable ► Spoke with U.S. ambassador about plan

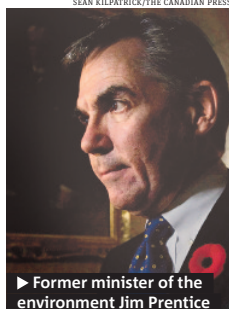
A leaked U.S. government document says Canada's former environment minister was frustrated with his own government's response to international criticism over the oilsands.

And Jim Prentice was getting ready to step in to do something about it.

The diplomatic note, obtained by WikiLeaks and published by the Norwegian newspaper Aftenposten, was an accounting of a 2009 lunch that Prentice had with the U.S. ambassador to Canada.

David Jacobson had assumed his new post a month earlier and the introductory lunch was described as "engaging," with Prentice assuming an unrushed, focused and collegial tone.

"Prentice appeared keen to forge a personal relationship with Ambassador Jacobson," the cable said, noting Prentice shared stories about his daughter, and



► Former minister of the environment Jim Prentice

life in Alberta.

But the cable also said Prentice confessed he was taken aback by the negative coverage Canada was receiving over the oil sands.

His concerns had been sparked by a trip to Norway where a public debate was going on over whether that country should invest in "dirty oil."

"Calling himself 'conservationist-minded,' Prentice said he would step in and regulate the sands if Cana-

da's image in the world gets further tarnished by negative coverage," read the cable.

It said that Prentice "felt that Government of Canada's reaction to the dirty oil label was 'too slow' and failed to grasp the magnitude of the situation."

If industry didn't take voluntary measures and if the provincial government didn't set more stringent regulations, "he would step in and press for federal environmental legislation," the cable said.

Prentice never took that step before he resigned as environment minister last month.

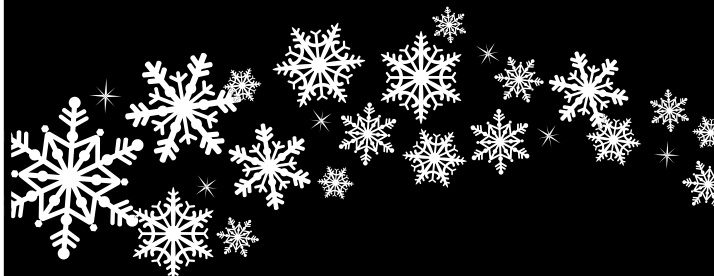
Prentice wanted a meeting with U.S. Senator John Kerry to discuss harmonized approaches to environmental issues.

"Overall, the lunch was a success and laid a number of markers for future co-operation," the cable said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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**Sears**

### Ivory Coast. Violence



► UN forces stand guard on a street of the Ivory Coast capital, Abidjan, yesterday.

SUNDAY ALAMBA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Civil war a 'real risk'

The UN chief has warned that Ivory Coast faces a risk of return to civil war, and that UN peacekeepers will face a critical situation in the coming days.

## Google buys a piece of Big Apple

Google has bought a New York office building where more than 2,000 of its employees work.

The Internet search leader confirmed the purchase yesterday, three weeks after The New York Times reported Google Inc. would pay \$1.8 billion for a 15-storey building that spans an entire city block.

Google Inc. didn't disclose how much it paid for the office.

It has become the second largest concentration of Google employees, ranking behind the company's Mountain View, Calif., headquarters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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► The hearse carrying the casket of Cpl. Steve Martin drives past people paying their respects outside CFB Trenton, Ont., yesterday.

## Fallen soldier finally returns

► Weather in Europe delayed repatriation ► Was 154th Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan

The body of the latest Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan was returned home Wednesday after bad weather delayed a repatriation ceremony earlier this week.

The military transport plane carrying Cpl. Steve Martin was originally scheduled to arrive at CFB Trenton on Tuesday, but the plane was grounded in Germany because of severe winter weather.

Martin, who would have turned 25 on Monday, was killed on Saturday by an improvised explosive device while he was on foot patrol.

Martin was from Saint-Cyrille-de-Wendover, about 115 kilometres northeast of Montreal.

His repatriation was the first to be attended by new Gov. Gen. David Johnston, who previously said with Martin's death he now feels the weight of his new responsibilities as commander-in-chief of the Canadian Forces.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay and members of Martin's family were also on the windswept tarmac as the flag-draped casket was escorted by military pallbearers to a waiting hearse.

The hearse and vehicles carrying the families departed the eastern Ontario military base after the ceremony and the procession then made its way to Toronto — where the remains are taken for autopsies — along

the route known as the Highway of Heroes.

Martin was attached to the 3rd Battalion Royal 22e Regiment based at CFB Valcartier in Quebec.

His death marked the end of one of Canada's longest stretches without a combat death since the country began deploying its soldiers to southern Afghanistan.

Johnston issued a statement on Sunday, offering his deepest sympathies to Martin's loved ones.

"Cpl. Martin displayed an admirable sense of duty to Canada, bringing great pride to his unit and to the Forces as a whole," he wrote.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### ONLINE DRINKING

## Police end website binge

West Vancouver Police have asked Facebook to cork a page on its site encouraging binge drinking among teens.

Police say the page had posted drinking challenges urging youth to guzzle large quantities of booze in a short time, attempt to avoid vomiting and then put videos of those acts

online.

Officers contacted about 10 local students who were participating on the global site after a concerned adult from the area notified them of its existence last week.

Const. Lisa Schmidtke says police talked with the teens and their parents about the dangers of excessive drinking.

The department also reported the page to Facebook, which altered the site to eliminate concerns, although Schmidtke says she'd ultimately like the page to be shut down altogether.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Truck flunks sniff test

The 13 air fresheners in the cab of the semi truck may have been the giveaway.

A Surrey, B.C., man faces charges after officers with the Canada Border Services Agency found 37 kilograms of cocaine hidden in the cab of the truck about to cross the Canadian border.

RCMP say drugs aren't normally hidden in the cab of a commercial vehicle because the acetone used to cut cocaine has a distinct smell. THE CANADIAN PRESS



# U.S. military gays don't have to lie anymore

► 'I say to all Americans, gay or straight ... we will be honoured to welcome you into the ranks': Obama

Declaring that members of the U.S. military will no longer be asked to lie, U.S. President Barack Obama fulfilled a campaign promise yesterday and signed a landmark law repealing the ban on gay men and women serving openly in the armed services.

The signing ceremony was a breakthrough moment for the U.S. gay community, the military and for Obama himself.

The president vowed during his 2008 campaign to repeal the law and faced pressure from liberals, a significant base in his Democratic party, who complained he was not acting swiftly enough.



► Barack Obama

Weeks after his self-described "shellacking" in the Nov. 2 vote, he has won lopsided approval of a tax-cut compromise with the opposition Republicans, and the Senate is poised to deliver his top foreign-policy goal: Ratification of a new nuclear-arms treaty with Russia.

The new law affecting the military ends the 17-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy that forced gays to hide their sexual orientation or face dismissal. Its repeal comes as American public opinion on such issues as gay marriage and gay rights in general has grown more tolerant.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The new law is the second of three expected victories in what's turned out to be — for Obama — a surprisingly productive post-election Congress.

## Cottage. Drowned



► Reuben Schwartz stands on the remains of his deck at his cottage on the Northumberland Strait in Brule, N.S., yesterday.

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Storms test community's strength

Reuben Schwartz's cottage was filled with water as a storm surge washed away the beach. The third Atlantic storm in a month crashed through seawalls, flooded wharfs and damaged homes along the east coast. By late afternoon, the Emergency Measures Organization in New Brunswick said that more than 600 reports of property damage had been received as a result of the coastal flooding and from the extreme rainfall on Dec. 13 and 14.

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# Economy faces risks: Report

► Canada's economy will grow by about 2.3% next year, unemployment will remain at 7.9%: IMF ► Economy advanced by 3% in 2010

The risks to Canada's economic recovery are increasing and could curtail growth in the future, the International Monetary Fund warns in a new outlook for the country.

Overall, the fund's end-of-the-year report on Canada gives a generally positive assessment, especially in comparison to other countries.

But it cited several "key risks" that could restrain

the recovery and growth in employment, including an overheated housing market, high household debt and the weak recovery in the U.S.

"Risks are elevated and

tilted to the downside with high household debt levels the main domestic risk, and a weaker U.S. outlook the largest external risk," the report states.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Magnate. Corporate compromise



► Magna's Frank Stronach speaks in Markham in this May 2010 photo. The battle between Magna International founder Frank Stronach and minority shareholders of MI Developments Inc. has ended in a truce that will give him ownership of several racetracks in exchange for control of the company, according to a report.

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Stronach settles with Magna shareholders

# Canadian firms set for buying spree: Report

The high loonie, increasing demand for goods in Asia and companies looking to spend their idle cash will lead to more mergers and takeovers involving Canadian businesses next year after a slight dip in 2010, according to business consultants and auditing firm KPMG.

KPMG says companies will be looking to emerging markets as a way to expand their boundaries and invest money sitting in bank accounts.

Adding the high dollar and favourable exchange rates to the mix makes it more affordable for Cana-

**6.8B** The biggest single Canadian deal completed this year was the \$6.8-billion US acquisition of Red Back Mining by Kinross Gold Corp.

dian companies to buy foreign ones, KPMG said.

"I think there's going to be opportunities in eastern Europe and the rest of Europe for Canadian companies ... with huge growth in those emerging economies like China and India," Peter Hatges, president of KPMG added. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# WHAT'S A TRADITION WITHOUT TRADITION?

He says ...

**JOHN MAZEROLLE**



It's that special time of year when columnists write irritating clichés like "it's that special time of year."

I'm contributing to the ritual this year because it's become clear I don't have enough annual traditions.

I've fought against repeating myself my whole life: When the bartender knows what I want, it's time for a new drink. When I'm starting to enjoy a job, it's time to move. When it seems I've settled on a toothpaste, it's time to brush around. (Keep it under your cap, but Crest and Colgate don't even know about each other.)

This approach gives me the benefit of feeling like my life is tumultuous even when it's stagnant — the life equivalent of

splashing in the bathtub.

I do have a few traditions, but nothing reassuring: I bang my hip on the corner of the kitchen table with the precision and regularity of the Queen's Guard. I watch the Boston Bruins lose in the playoffs, like clockwork, every spring. And every time I'm in my hometown my best friend and I go to a major fast food chain and order the "special" burger of the moment. I eat it first and describe in detail just how horrible it is, then he eats it and agrees.

You see why I would want some more heartwarming (not heart-burning) traditions.

My Christmases are not consistent, except that they keep getting worse. This year it's my only day off, with five days of work on one side and six on the other. Ho ho ho.

**"This approach gives me the benefit of feeling like my life is tumultuous even when it's stagnant ..."**

And I grew up with all the traditions: Warm house; stockings; presents; food; family; mother yelling. "Why can't we have a nice Christmas?!" and running off to cry. (That happened twice, which makes it

tradition.)

I need some of that again. So here are a few Yuletide rituals I'm considering:

- Join the Christians who complain that the words "Happy

Holidays" are an assault on their faith, rather than an attempt to include other faiths. I'm not Christian, but it's fun to be the underdog, especially when you number two billion.

- Recreate the big family Christmas. Set up a huge table with 12 place settings, all the trimmings, decorations, and a children's table off to the side. Then sit at it alone in contemplative silence.

- End the annual Christmas column with irritating clichés like, "Best of the season to you and yours" and "Merry Christmas."

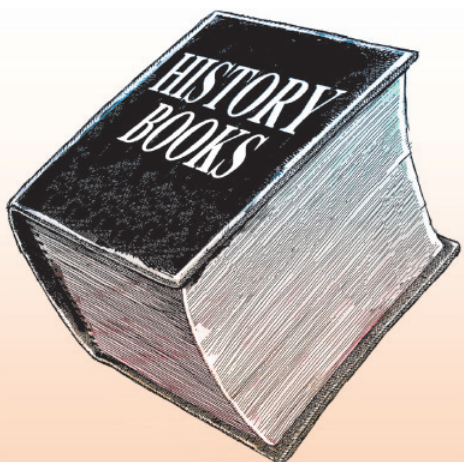
Oh, and best of the season to you and yours. Merry Christmas!



Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at [metronews.ca/hesays](http://metronews.ca/hesays)

Cartoon

THE ONLY JUSTIFIABLE PLACE FOR A "DON'T ASK DON'T TELL" POLICY:



After metro

MICHAEL DE ADLER

## Certainly not child's play

**Worth mentioning**

It came with wobbly writing and hand-drawn diagrams, but an elementary school science project has made it into a peer-reviewed journal from Britain's prestigious Royal Society.

Biology Letters published a report yesterday conducted and written by a group of eight- to 10-year-olds from an English elementary school investigating the way bumblebees see colours and patterns.

The scientific organization said the children reported findings that were a "genuine advance" in the field of insect colour and pattern vision.

**'Genuine advance'**



TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Working with a neuroscientist from University College London, the children carefully documented their methodology and discussed the data they collected.

The group trained bees to go to targets of different colours by giving them a sugar reward, and reported that the insects are able to learn and

remember cues based on colour and pattern. Scientists who commented on the kids' report in the journal say although the experiments were modest and lacked statistical analyses, they were cleverly and correctly designed and hold their own compared to those conducted by highly trained specialists. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

**What was your favourite memory of 2010?**

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## Metro Minute at Jackie Parker park

If you're looking for a hot spot of winter activity over the holidays, look no further than the Jackie Parker Recreation Area where the Jackie Parker Winter Park has come to life.

Things got going Dec. 17 and will continue until the end of February, but until Jan. 3, 2011, a variety of outdoor activities will be on offer daily from

noon to 6 p.m. Those activities include skating, sledding and playing. Afterwards, you can warm up with hot drinks in the pavilion.

The recreation area is located at 4540-50 St. It will be closed this weekend and will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

● HEATHER MCINTYRE



► Skating is just one of the activities available at the Jackie Parker Recreation Area.

# 2 scene

## Scene in brief



Christian Bale will star in Chinese filmmaker Zhang Yimou's new project about 13 young prostitutes who help save compatriots from Japanese troops rampaging Nanjing, the latest film exploring a World War II-era atrocity that stirs nationalism in China.

Bale, currently co-starring in the boxing drama *The Fighter*, will portray an American priest in the movie, which is expected to start filming in Nanjing on Jan. 10, the Chinese director told reporters yesterday.

Bale was picked because of his versatility and dedication to his roles, Zhang said, noting he was impressed by the research Bale did into the history of the massacre.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



CBS to bring 3 rookie series aboard for midseason; *Blue Bloods*, *Rules* get new slots



► The Canadian Tenors, from left, Fraser Walters, Clifton Murray, Victor Micallef and Remigio Pereira. With help from Oprah Winfrey, success-crammed 2010 was a 'Perfect Gift' for the popera quartet.

# The ultimate bromance

- By late 2009 the Canadian Tenors had built a solid homegrown following
- Group's popularity skyrocketed after they appeared on the Oprah show

A year after releasing their first hit album, the Canadian Tenors are delivering *The Perfect Gift*, a compilation of traditional and contemporary holiday music.

"You have the classics like *O Holy Night* and *Silent Night*, but there are songs that are not necessarily Christmas-specific," explained tenor Victor Micallef. "Some great producers worked on that, as

well," added band mate Clifton Murray. Hallelujah was (produced by) Bob Ezrin, who worked on *The Wall*.

That's as in Pink Floyd's *The Wall* — just one of many aspects of the Tenors that may surprise. The quartet's clean-cut, all-North American looks scream "pre-fab," and, indeed, the band was the brainchild of Canadian composer Jill Ann

**"We started grassroots and just slowly built up. We cut our teeth on the road doing that."**

CANADIAN TENOR REMIGIO PEREIRA

Siemens, who first started work on the project some 10 years ago. The current configuration of the group is Victor Micallef, Clifton Murray, Remigio

Pereira and Fraser Walters.

The recent holiday album was released in October, months after the group's debut album *The Canadian Tenors* ranked at the top of Billboard's Classical Albums chart.

Before making inroads in the U.S., Pereira said, the group did 12 shows in 12 small towns in western Saskatchewan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Joined at the hip

The Canadian Tenors spend more time together on the road than they do with their families these days.

► The four wrapped up their 2010 tour schedule Tuesday night in Fort Worth, Texas.

► They plan to head back north, to the singers' respective homes for the holidays.

## Kenny vs. Spenny quarrel through the holidays

In this season of peace-on-earth and goodwill-toward-men, leave it to longstanding rivals Kenny Hotz and Spencer Rice to flout the holidays with the cruelest Christmas show they can muster.

The *Kenny vs. Spenny* Christmas Special presents the outrageous frenemies at their festive worst, and marks the duo's final showdown as they wrap their outlandish series after six seasons.

**"We couldn't keep going. Our relationship is hanging by a thread as it is."**

SPENCER RICE

"Spenny killed it. Spenny killed the show — he didn't want to do it anymore, he's a quitter," Hotz says in a recent interview at a downtown cafe, seated next to Rice.

"Not true," Rice inter-



► Kenny Hotz

jects. "I didn't want to do it from season one ... but I didn't kill it.... We both, at the exact same moment and time, decided, 'Enough.'"

True to form, the divisive duo can't help but quarrel until the bitter end.

*Kenny vs. Spenny* ends its run after 87 episodes that included crass challenges such as "Who can wear a dead octopus on their head the longest?"

(to name one of the duo's less raunchy competitions, many of which are unprintable).

Invariably, the wise-cracking Kenny stooped to underhanded tactics to assure himself victory and the right to inflict the most indignant humiliation he could on his more scrupulous and sensitive partner. The *Kenny vs. Spenny* Christmas Special airs today on Showcase.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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## 6

## Overlooked films 2010

▶ Don't miss these hidden gems that may have escaped you first time round



**RICHARD  
CROUSE**

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According to movieweb.com, 648 movies were released in 2010. Here are some of 2010's releases you may have missed but are worth a look.



### Splice

In Splice a creature goes from newborn to troubled teen in just a matter of weeks. Starring Sarah Polley and Adrien Brody, it's giddy good fun; the rare sci fi flick that revels in its b-movie roots while also offering up something to think about.



▶ Michael Cera stars in Scott Pilgrim vs. The World.

### Scott Pilgrim vs. The World

Scott Pilgrim vs. The World stars Michael Cera as a 22-year-old Torontonion who must defeat his girlfriend's Seven Evil Exes if he wants to be with her. It's a wild ride that nails the pop culture zeitgeist but also tells a universal human story.



### Cyrus

Cyrus is an odd movie. It's about a lonely guy, the woman of his dreams ... and her quirky son played by

Jonah Hill. Not quite a comedy, not quite a drama, it falls somewhere in between. Just like real life.



### Get Low

Get Low, the unlikely story of a man arranging his own funeral, took on three han-

kie status as Robert Duvall played an old man looking back on his wasted life.



### Winter's Bone

Winter's Bone should be seen not only for its uncompromising story of an Ozark girl who will do anything to keep her family together, but also for the breakout performance of its star Jennifer Lawrence.



### Defendor

In Defendor Woody Harrelson plays a man whose rich inner life spills out into his real life. By day he's dead-end-job-Arthur but at night he's superhero Defendor. Gritty and funny, Harrelson breathes life into a role that could easily have fallen into cliché.

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# The highs and lows of Hollywood 2010

**NED EHRBAR**  
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

It's been an odd year, 2010, with some surprise box office hits (Hey there, Alice in Wonderland) and high-profile misses (Burlesque, I'm looking at you) mixed in with the usual Twilight and Harry Potter cash cows. With the holidays — and awards season — upon us, we try to make sense of it all by tallying up the best and worst films of 2010.

## Up and down

### Inception

A triumph of storytelling, visuals and emotion, Christopher Nolan's dream-scape is an all-around winner.



### Sex and the City 2

It's rare for a movie to be this aggressively bad, especially when it's part of a beloved, successful TV and film franchise. Whether it was the worse-than-usual puns, the recession or the cultural tone-deafness, this was a tour de force of awfulness.

## Ups

### The Social Network

As timely as it is entertaining, David Fincher's Facebook movie gets great performances from its young cast, but it's Aaron Sorkin's screenplay that is the real star here.

### Never Let Me Go

A subtle, moving adaptation of Kazuo Ishiguro's heartbreaking novel, the film proved that Carey Mulligan's Oscar nomination last year wasn't a

flake.

### Black Swan

Though it's been jokingly referred to as Showgirls for the art-house set, Darren Aronofsky's mind-bending look inside the world of professional ballet will leave you blinking at the screen.

### The Ghost Writer

Though likely not Tony Blair's favourite film of the year, Roman Polanski's taut thriller about a memoir-writing former Prime Minister with something

to hide was chilling and near-perfect.

### Toy Story 3

Proving that franchises don't have to decline in quality as they go on — I'm looking at you, Shrek — this wasn't just a great animated film, it was a great film.

### Blue Valentine

Absolutely devastating portrayal of a marriage imploding, this too-real drama starring Ryan Gosling and Michelle Williams will haunt you.

### Scott Pilgrim vs. The World

Edgar Wright's comic adaptation was possibly the most entertaining and original film of the year. Practically an anthem for the video game generation.

### The Kids Are All Right

Anchored by a pair of hilariously flawed performances by Annette Bening and Julianne Moore as lesbian parents, this film's portrait of a modern family hit all the right notes.

## Downs

### Eat Pray Love

Beautiful to look at, as long as you don't listen to Julia Roberts' character's lamentations about being spiritually unfulfilled. It's two and a half hours of yuppie faux-spirituality, objectifying native cultures and rampant self-absorption.

### For Colored Girls

Tyler Perry's clumsy adaptation — and even clumsier direction — left his stellar cast of actresses twisting in

the wind.

### Robin Hood

Ridley Scott's bloated, plodding retelling of the origins of Sherwood Forest's most famous resident, played by a scowling, grumbly Russell Crowe, was almost as boring as it was needlessly mean to the French.

### Valentine's Day

A rom-com omnibus packed with pretty faces in various states of romantic distress, this overstuffed confection is about as aggressively sweet as they come. But in case you didn't

get enough, the folks behind it have New Years Eve on tap next.

### Clash of the Titans

This remake's worst crime was tossing the original's bright colours and campiness for a dour, gray slog through Ancient Greece, all led by a smile-averse Sam Worthington.

### The Back-Up Plan

Jennifer Lopez's latest bid at box office domination came off instead like a how-to guide for getting the romantic comedy genre wrong.

### Dinner for Schmucks

It seems impossible for a movie starring Steve Carell and Paul Rudd — and featuring a Zach Galifianakis cameo — to be so aggressively unfunny, but Dinner for Schmucks achieves the impossible.

### Jonah Hex

Somehow, Josh Brolin managed to appear in the best and worst westerns this year, getting top billing in both the superb True Grit and this turkey.

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## Album reviews

A classic ●●●●● | Buy it ●●●●● | Get the single ●●● | Borrow it ●● | Don't bother ●

**Stereos**

**Album:** Uncontrollable  
**Label:** Universal  
 ●½  
 Stereos is Canadian kiddie rock, music planned for young girls not long weaned off the Doodlebops. These season-one Disband stars sing a song called Girls in the Club for tweens still several years away

from ever realistically gaining entrance to one. It's boy band music wrapped in a punk veneer. Track two is a particularly aggravating song horribly misnamed Attitude. Parents, do your children a favour and introduce them to some old Led Zeppelin records. **Outstanding track:** Yeah Yeah Yeah  
 ● GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM

**Keyshia Cole**

**Album:** Calling all Hearts  
**Label:** Universal  
 ●●●●  
 Keyshia Cole's latest does away with some of the more upbeat pop found on her 2008 disc, A Different Me, instead returning to the slow burning soul jams found on her earlier albums. The disc is fairly

consistent — it's loaded with big, soaring hooks and songs about her family. However, while the record starts strong — title track I Ain't Thru is a catchy club track featuring Nicki Minaj — too many slow songs drag the record down. **Outstanding track:** I Ain't Thru  
 ● BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

**Keri Hilson**

**Album:** No Boys Allowed  
**Label:** Universal  
 ●●●●  
 Despite the title of Keri Hilson's latest disc, the record is filled with collaborations from the boys including Timbaland, Kanye and Chris Brown. Hilson, however, should have

stuck to using her own voice. It sometimes feels like the accomplished songwriter, who only contributed her writing skills to five of 11 songs, has gone missing. The Rihanna-like soul pop is fun but that's all it is. Nothing stands out. **Outstanding track:** Buyou  
 ● BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI

**Ghostface Killah**

**Album:** Apollo Kids  
**Label:** Def Jam  
 ●●●●½  
 After subjecting us to a deadpan R&B experiment a year ago, Ghostface gets back on track with his ninth album. Even without RZA behind the boards, Apollo Kids manages to evoke Wu-Tang's

classic era. Ghost's raucous street-smart narratives are as inspired as ever over an assortment of dusty soul samples. He still manages to outdo his contemporaries with a nostalgia trip that's as raw and poised as anything he's done. **Outstanding track:** Troublemakers  
 ● CAM LINDSAY

**Jamie Foxx**

**Album:** Best Night of My Life  
**Label:** Sony  
 ●●½  
 Jamie Foxx has discovered that "martini" rhymes with "bikini" which is about as deep as it gets on the latest from the Oscar-winning movie star with the silken voice. This is Hollywood hip hop at its

most familiar. It gets a tad tedious listening to Foxx tell us over and over again what a great guy he is ... as he does with the help of Justin Timberlake on the chart-targeted track, Winner (and several other tracks here). Okay, Jamie, we get the message. **Outstanding track:** Winner  
 ● GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM

**Diddy-Dirty Money**

**Album:** Last Train To Paris  
**Label:** Bad Boy  
 ●●●●  
 "This is a brand new sound. This will change your life." For Diddy, this promise is at least half true. Last Train To Paris sees this long gestating concept album come to life through his new group featuring singers

Dawn Richards and Kaleena Harper. With gaudy production and a heavy guest list, Diddy's "electro-hip-hop-soul-funk" vision is ambitious, but derails when Diddy isn't in full control. Last Train To Paris won't change your life, but at least it's a fun ride. **Outstanding track:** Shades  
 ● CAM LINDSAY



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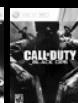
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# Stalker caught backstage

► 24-year-old woman reportedly already known to Gaga's team

Lady Gaga got quite a scare in London when a stalker reportedly got backstage and nearly made it to the singer, according to Hollyscoop. "Gaga was understandably shaken by the incident but was a consummate professional and continued as per normal, putting on a dazzling show," a source says of her show at the O2 arena.

The unidentified 24-year-old apparently made a fake backstage pass to get past security and was found heading for Gaga's dressing room.

She was questioned and released. ● METRO



► Lady Gaga

## Scarlett-Ryan split not much of a secret

While the split between Ryan Reynolds and Scarlett Johansson may have come as a shock to many, Reynolds reportedly wasn't shy about discussing his marital woes while on the set of his next big film, *The Green Lantern*, according to a report in *Us Weekly*.

Reynolds was "open on set that he and Scarlett were having problems" and "would say that she treated him badly," a source tells the magazine. "It never seemed like she made him a priority."

● METRO



### Celebrity tweets



**Joel McHale**  
[@joelmchale] My 2yr old

keeps declaring w/great merriment "Happy Stupid, Happy stupid!!!". I think we'll start celebrating that holiday as well.



**Ashley Tisdale**  
[@ashleytisdale] Busy and

crazy day today..... I'm officially on my Christmas break! Now in bed watching house hunters



**Andy Richter**  
[@Richter\_Andy] At son's Epis-

copal school Christmas service. Ending's always the same; baby Jesus wins.



**Aziz Ansari**  
[@azizansari] Damn. For-

got to hire babies off Craigslist to pose as my fake children in my Christmas card again this year.

## Zac leans on friends to deal with breakup

While dealing with his split from Vanessa Hudgens, Zac Efron has reportedly been "leaning" on his *The Lucky Ones* co-star Taylor Schilling while they film in Louisiana, according to *E!* News.

"They joke around, eat together sometimes, run lines," says an on-set source.

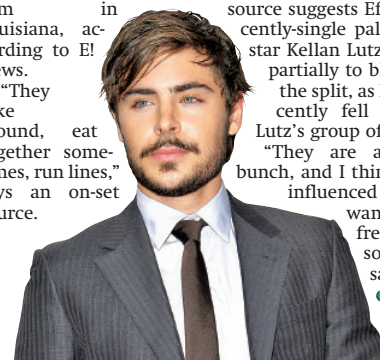
"Nothing out of the ordinary."

Others speculate there's more going on between the two.

Meanwhile, another source suggests Efron's recently-single pal and co-star Kellan Lutz may be partially to blame for the split, as Efron recently fell in with Lutz's group of friends.

"They are a rowdy bunch, and I think that's influenced him to want to be free," the source says.

● METRO



## Clinic worker fired for talking to press about Lohan incident

A worker at the Betty Ford Center is speaking out after being dismissed following an incident with Lindsay Lohan.

Dawn Holland tells *TMZ* Lohan was drunk and violent returning to her sober-living facility after curfew one night, while Lohan claims she was sober and Holland was abusive to her.

While an investigation is underway, Holland was fired from the rehab clinic for violating a confidentiality agreement when she spoke with *TMZ*.

"The story was already way out there in the open before I spoke," Hol-

land says.

● METRO



► Lindsay Lohan

## Russell, Katy keep the magic alive

Katy Perry says she and Russell Brand are finding that keeping a happy marriage between two working celebrities requires being strict about schedules —

and adventurous in the bedroom. "We're both busy, but this is a huge part of my life. I call the shots on my schedule," she tells *Grazia* magazine. "There are week-

ends for Russ and weekends for me and my friends. Neither of us ever wants to lose ourself or the other in fame." As for how they spend those weekends? "I

have secrets and magic tricks, of course. I can't share them because then you'd all know," she says. "But let's just say I'm not shy." ● METRO

### News in brief

#### Brangelina has Pinsky worried

**ADVICE.** Dr. Drew Pinsky is fearing the worst for Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie's relationship, given remarks each have made, including Jolie's admissions of past drug abuse and Pitt's "demeaning attitude to-

wards other people's emotions," according to the *Huffington Post*.

"Put those two people together and you have got a really volatile situation," Pinsky says.

"They're constantly creating things to weld themselves together, which is only going to serve to make a more nuclear eruption. There will be some sort of meltdown that will be phenomenal when it does happen." ● METRO



# 3 life

You loved

## MAD MEN STYLE



Red-carpet-friendly  
Badgley Mischka taps Rumer  
Willis as new ad model

# Thank God that one's over

◊ We polled readers from Canada to Italy to find out which trends you never want to see again in 2011 ◊ Here are the results

As the year — and technically an entire decade depending on which math you use — draws to a close, it's only natural to reflect on the past. On the fashion front, 2010 presented

highs and lows.

You loved fashion's return to wearable clothes such as the Céline-fueled minimalist trend. But the invasion of jeggings? Not so much.

We polled readers in nine countries where we are published, to find out which trends you'd love to bury for good in the new year.

METRO WORLD NEWS

**"I'm tired of heels so high and over-embellished that they should only be worn by drag queens."**

A METRO READER



### Ridiculously tall platform heels

They may look great on the runway, in a music video or on a street style blog, but they're difficult to walk in and often hurt. Maybe that's why über tall shoes are overwhelmingly the least popular trend among Metro readers — except the Italian ones.

82%

of our readers in Italy love sky-high heels.



### Trucker hats

Ages ago, Pharrell Williams made them cool. Then, Ashton Kutcher made them popular. Now, they're the accessory of choice for cheeseballs everywhere — still.



### Goth style

Times are dark enough. Why dress that way too? Based on our survey results, you're ready to kill the goth look.



### Harem pants

Fashionistas associate dhoti trousers with Givenchy couture. But most people just think of Hammer Time. Americans and Canadians have the least tolerance for drop crotch pants.



### Crocs

Let's face it. The rainbow coloured rubber clogs only really make sense on very small children. The Dutch, surprisingly, hate them the most.

69%

of our Dutch readers would banish Crocs from the earth



### Ballet slipper flats

A timeless classic or over-exposed bore? If you ask our Hungarian and Danish readers, the comfy shoes are the latter.



44%

OF OUR U.S. READERS THINK UGGs ARE VILE

### Ugg boots

They bother us for a number of reasons. At the top of our list: the irritating sliding noise they make when you walk around in them.



### Skinny jeans for men

Why? Because they require abnormally thin legs. And who wants to look at a man's twig legs stuffed in pants that are too tight?

43%

OF OUR CANADIAN READERS THINK VELOUR TRACKSUITS ARE "OV-AH"



### Velour track suits

It's amazing that these are still hanging around, considering that it's been nearly ten years since Jennifer Lopez and Paris Hilton first made them popular. Our Greek readers don't mind them so much, though.



### Leggings, weggings and jeggings

The knit, wet look and denim variety drive our French and Hungarian readers batty.

**Honourable mentions:** 1. Jeans with bling 2. Ed Hardy "jerk shirts" 3. Sex and the City



# Go small on New Year's Eve

► Don't want a grand affair to end the year? Here are some tips for throwing a small, stylish NYE party

Maybe it's because of cost, space or just overall effort, but many people prefer hosting a smaller New Year's Eve get-together rather than a grand affair. Still, they want to send off the old year in memorable style.

E-vites are a free, convenient way to get the word out.

Web invitation sites let you track RSVPs, and provide a map with directions for your guests.

A traditional paper invite, however, is a nice touch. Make sure you're clear about details, including what will be served — is it dinner or just appetizers? Dress up or just show up?

Matching your invitation to your party's style scheme — elegant, free-wheeling or nostalgic cosy — will set the tone.

The invitation's a talisman that helps guests prepare for the evening.

Style at Home magazine's editor Christine



Festive striped stemware



Gold mosaic barware



Godis Mix glasses



Nysno serving plate



O'Hanlon suggests picking a colour scheme for the party and sticking to it. Ikea's blue and white star dish and paper goods collection would suit a dressy or casual affair.

Ballard Designs has some fun safari-print serving ware. Pier 1's colourful, striped glassware and candlesticks have a festive vibe.

Canadian interior designer Candice Olson, who is working on a new HGTV behind-the-scenes series, Candice Tells All, shares some easy, creative party ideas:

## Switch it up

Turn the Christmas tree into a "New Year's Eve Tree" by removing the Santa and reindeer ornaments and replacing them with party favours — hats, streamers and colourful beads.

## Time to party

"Utilize a countdown theme, and play with numbers as decorating ideas," says Olson. "Apply stick-on numbers to glasses (it's a good way to know whose glass is whose), serve number-cut cookies, and put adhesive numbers on pil-

lar candles. Use an inexpensive roll of white art paper, cut to fit the length of your table. Stencil or paint oversize numbers down the centre for an eye-catching table display." She suggests setting out a group of vintage alarm clocks on a small table, all set to ring at midnight.

## Keep things rolling

Small gatherings are more susceptible to lulls, so have fun things to do.

A great icebreaking idea, says Olson, is to create your own low-tech photo booth with a digital

camera and nearby printer, or instant cam. Set out a selection of fun props and accessories. Snap two of everything, so guests have a souvenir and you can create a post-party album.

O'Hanlon suggests icebreakers like trivia, word and board games. Add a little social competitiveness by offering a small prize — perhaps a DVD, or a gourmet gift card.

Use a side table, console or desk as a bar cart, unless you already have one. Keep libations simple, with a signature cocktail

and a couple of drink pitchers, including alcohol-free.

Set up food buffet-style, with appetizer-size nibblers.

A round table or two offers a great spot for noshers to gather if you prefer sitting to standing around.

To finish the evening, set out bowls of colourful candies, mints, cookies and mini desserts, along with little take-out containers. Guests can bring home a bit more party flavour to enjoy before the resolutions kick in on Jan. 1. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# A resolution of decor

► New Year's resolution: To be the perfect decorator and have the perfect home

It's nearing the end of the year and my resolutions are piling up: Lose weight, eat healthy, live a stress-less life. But my biggest resolution is to complete all the small decorating projects that have been lingering since the renovation of my house last year.

Drapes in the dining room, a new faucet in the guest bathroom and a carpet runner for the upstairs hallway are just a few. Here's a list of other forgotten decor chores that could use some updating, all of which will make me a hip-ster decorator, I'm sure.



## DECOR MOMENT



KARL LOHNES  
HOME@  
METRONEWS.CA

### UPDATING MY LOOK

It's time to re-frame a few older pieces of art; the ones with the 1970's frames are in desperate need of a facelift. A simple frame with a soft, metallic sheen (either silver or gold) can make any piece of art feel updated. I'm digging out the measuring tape, making sure that all my art is hung approximately 66 inches from the floor to the middle of the art. Lowering my artwork will actually make my ceilings look taller and give it new perspective.

### BEING A WARMER PERSON

My dining room window desperately needs fabric and the master bedroom needs some warming up. I'm thinking of a light-

weight plain wool fabric with a coloured ribbon sewn onto the inside edge and across the bottom.

Having my drapes lined in polar-fleece type fabric will give them a full body, block sun and provide great installation from the heat and cold.

### GETTING IN SHAPE

I have a beautiful dining table but it's not the right shape for the space I've allotted for dinner parties. My space is square, therefore I need a round or square-shaped table.

My fabulous oval table is overbearing in the square space and should find a new home in a longer, rectangular room. My ideal table would have a pedestal base. Corner legs tend to get in the way when squeezing extra guests at the table.

### BECOMING HIP

It's time for an update ... My Barely There alabaster-coloured paint is washing itself out and my walls are crying for more umph! I'm thinking about giving into the trend of darker walls and a rich, warm grey will



► Glass vases can add colour trends to a room

add drama and cool down all the neutral taupe, brown and cream that I have collected in sofas, area rugs and wood furniture. Perhaps a few new pillows, lampshades and glass vases in colours like bright yellow or purple will help keep my living room on trend without a huge investment.

What is your decorating resolution for this year? Is it to add more personality to your space, to complete the furnishings or to add a new colour to the walls? I'd love to hear about your plans and projects so please send a photo (I always love to see ugly before shots) of your decorating projects to home@metronews.ca.



► Flannel drapes add warmth to a room.



# It's worth a stop at this cozy lunch counter



CHRISTOPHER THRALL

► Tuna Melt

► A gourmet hot sandwich and fresh local coffee costs only \$10

## LUNCH RUSH

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FOOD@METRONEWS.CA



In a warmer climate, Elm Cafe would be the best downtown lunch cart.

Legions of office workers and road crews would crowd in for a gourmet panini and cup of exquisite espresso.

The Elm would be an unofficial stop for every passing bus.

In the bone-chilling December afternoon, however, it was a cozy little lunch counter with enough space for two chairs. I picked up an \$8 tuna melt and returned to my car.

The thin bread, crisped in the sandwich press, was

perfect. Boursin goat cheese seemed to be an odd pair with the prosaic tuna, but the addition of sweet apple and shallots carried the sandwich into the sublime.

I sipped at the rich, B.C.-roasted coffee (\$2.50) and looked around at the steady stream of Jasper Avenue traffic.

People on foot would stop for a sandwich — perhaps over-vehicularized Edmontonians will be lucky enough to make the trip.

► **Elm Cafe**  
► 10140-117 St.  
► 780-756-3356  
► [elmcafe.ca](http://elmcafe.ca)  
► Rating: \*\*\*1/2  
► Price range: Low  
► Category: Solo lunch  
► Reservations: No  
► Licensed: No

## Beef Tourtière



### Ingredients:

- 500 g (1 lb) ground beef
- 250 g (1/2 lb) ground pork
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) chicken broth
- 1 each minced onion and minced garlic clove
- Celery stalk, diced
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) each dried thyme and sage
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground cloves and cinnamon
- 375 ml (1 1/2 cups) mashed potatoes
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) fresh parsley, minced
- 2 frozen pie shells (each 23 cm/9 inches), thawed

### Beef Tourtière Preparation:

- 1 In a large, deep skillet over medium-high heat, pan-fry ground beef, ground pork, onion and garlic. Drain. Add chicken broth, celery, thyme, sage, cloves and cinnamon; cook for 10 minutes or until no liquid remains. Remove from heat. Stir in mashed potatoes and parsley.
- 2 Spoon into pie shell. Top with second pie crust and cut steam vents in top crust.
- 3 Bake in a 200 C (400 F) oven until hot and golden brown, 35 to 45 minutes. Makes 8 servings. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

# Quadriplegic chef pens inspirational cookbook

► Cooking with Cory offers tasty recipes based on healthy, fresh and sustainable ingredients ► Cookbook also offers tips for the handicapped

Cory Parsons simply won't let adversity keep him out of the kitchen.

Thirteen years ago, the budding chef from Nanaimo, B.C., was severely injured in a diving accident that left him a quadriplegic.

He had been apprenticing in the restaurant industry since the age of 12, but his life was totally disrupted as he came to terms with the new reality of his physical disability.

"But somehow I wanted to get back into the food industry," says Parsons, 36.

"Obviously with the level of injury I have, carrying a box of wine in a restaurant and working 14-hour days was not possible," he says.

Then the idea of writing a cookbook came to him, and the result is uplifting. His first cookbook, *Cooking with Cory: Inspira-*

tional Recipes for the Fearless Cook (Whitecap \$29.95, paperback), is "a dream come true."

"I typed most of the book with one finger," says Parsons. Then he discovered voice recognition software, which helped him finish the book.

As a personal trainer to others who are disabled, Parsons is a proponent of healthy, fresh and sustainable ingredients.

Readers will be able to savour his recipes including Cory's Green Coconut Curry Prawns, Crispy Crunchy Crab-cakes and Barbecued Tenderloin Steak with Goat Cheese.

His book also offers tips on tools and ideas that enable the handicapped to negotiate their kitchens

without fear.

"I have become quite skilled in the kitchen," he writes in the introduction. "The adaptations include lowered countertops, plenty of room to manoeuvre my chair and an array of carefully chosen kitchen utensils."

He also addresses the adjustment he has had to make since the accident in choosing the foods he can eat.

"I have had adverse reactions to some foods, which has forced me to change my diet," he says. A severe reaction to processed salt has

**"I don't have any voluntary motion of my hands, but I do have 60 per cent in my arms."**

CHEF CORY PARSONS

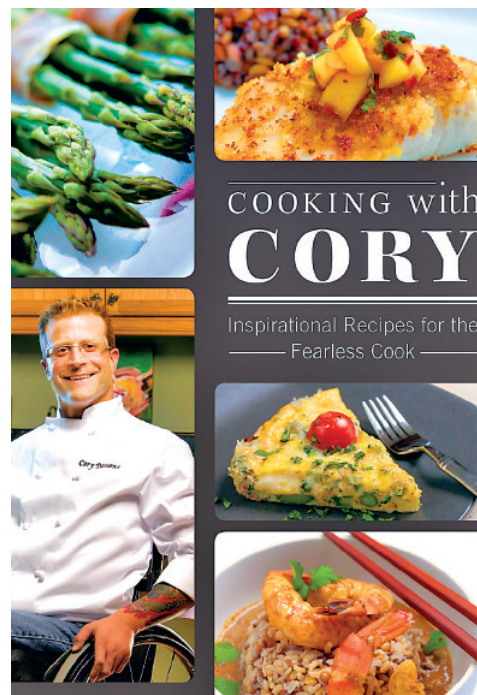
led Parsons to choose Himalayan pink salt, which is unrefined.

After the accident, Parsons returned to university and studied psychology, recreational therapy and earned a diploma in crisis counselling.

He now works as a consultant for accessibility and personal relations for those with disabilities.

But there is no doubt in his mind that his greatest achievement is his cookbook. "I have discovered that you can do anything. It's not a matter of if, but how," he says.

**THE CANADIAN PRESS**





# The season to sparkle



## Top toys

Find out what children around the world are hoping to see under their Christmas trees this year. {page 24}



## Gifts that glitter

Great gifts for that special lady in your life. {page 27}



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# Top toys around the world

► What's the most popular gift for young ones, and the young-at-heart? ► We asked local retailers in 14 different countries. ► Some have real Buzz.



## UNITED STATES, UNITED KINGDOM, SPAIN JET PACK BUZZ LIGHTYEAR

**Why popular:** Sorry Dad, he doesn't actually fly, but the jetpack makes whirring sounds, and the laser is movie-accurate. Plus: He says things from "Toy Story 3."  
(SOURCE: TOYS R US; BRITAIN'S TOY RETAILERS ASSOCIATION; JUGUETERIA FANTASIA)



## HOLLAND MINI-KITCHEN BY MIELE

**Why popular:** This toy oven has more features than your own, and plays music, too.  
(SOURCE: BART SMIT)



## CANADA BARBIE VIDEO GIRL WITH BUILT-IN VIDEO CAMERA

**Why popular:** You can record up to 30 minutes of movie, via a camera hidden in Barbie's chest. Very cool but a little creepy.  
(SOURCE: CANADIAN TOY ASSOCIATION; ONE OF 108 HOT TOYS)

## SWEDEN, ITALY, FRANCE PAPER JAMZ ELECTRIC GUITAR

**Why popular:** Black Sabbath. Judas Priest. Lady Gaga. Kids can play anything on this paper-thin, battery-operated guitar.  
(SOURCE: METRO SWEDEN; LITTLE BIG TOWN; GRAND PRIX DU JOUET)



## MEXICO DINO VALLEY TOY SETS

**Why popular:** Kids can act out "Jurassic Park" in the safety of their own home.  
(SOURCE: MERCERIA DEL REFUGIO)



## BRAZIL LIV DOLLS

**Why popular:** Barbie is a nerd compared to these fashionistas, who shop, skateboard and rock out after getting their nails done.  
(SOURCE: RIHAPPY)



## SOUTH AFRICA OREGON SMARTGLOBE

**Why popular:** Touch the pen to any country and you'll hear interesting facts, updatable online.  
(SOURCE: REGGIE'S)



## AUSTRALIA BEYBLADE METAL FUSION BATTLE TOP

**Why popular:** String a ripcord through the top and these discs spin around, knock one another off the table.  
(SOURCE: TOYS R US AUSTRALIA)



## HONG KONG BANDAI BEN 10 LEGACY OMNITRIX

**Why popular:** The "Ben 10" anime series follows a kid who wears an Omnitrix, the ultimate weapon, on his wrist.  
(SOURCE: TOYS R US HONG KONG)



## RUSSIA WELLY DIE-CAST TOY CARS

**Why popular:** Do you have to ask? Everyone wants a Lamborghini.  
(SOURCE: DETSKY MIR)



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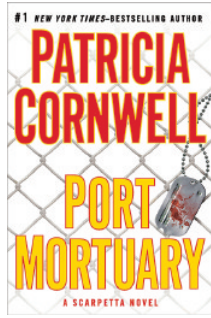
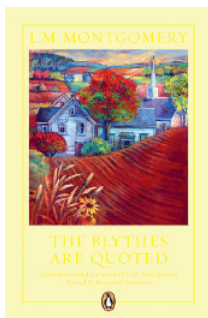
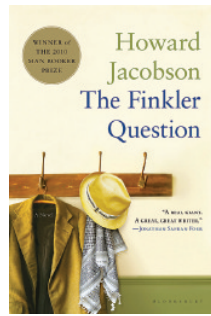
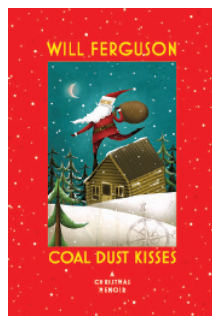
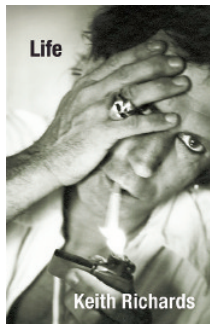
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# Santa's shelf

## COAL BUST KISSES, BY WILL FERGUSON

A rich, layered Christmas memoir which spans generations, told with warmth and humour. \$16 at major retailers.

## THE SHERLOCKIAN, BY GRAHAM MOORE

A detective-story-within-a-detective-story that delves into the history of Sherlock Holmes and his creator Arthur Conan Doyle. \$32 at major retailers.

## THE FINKLER QUESTION, BY HOWARD JACOBSEN

A scorching story of friendship and loss, exclusion and belonging, and of the wisdom and humanity of maturity, told with humour and poise. \$18.50 at major retailers.

## THE BLYTHES ARE QUOTED, BY L.M. MONTGOMERY

The last, previously-unpublished work of fiction by the author of Anne of Green Gables contains 15 short stories dealing with darker themes of adultery, revenge, murder and death. \$14 at major retailers.

## LIFE, BY KEITH RICHARDS

A critically-acclaimed autobiography by one of the world's best-known rock stars. \$16.99 at Amazon.ca.

## PORT MORTUARY, BY PATRICIA CORNWELL

The eighteenth novel in Patricia Cornwell's popular forensic science series sees heroine Kay Scarpetta embroiled in a case that could ruin her professional career and personal life. \$32.50 at major retailers.

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► There is a wine choice for everyone in your life.

# The tipping point

► Tip postie, dog walker, hairdresser with vino — especially chosen

That's the suggestion of noted Canadian wine writer, speaker and judge Natalie MacLean, who is no slouch at choosing the right vino to fit the recipient's personality.

"I wanted to find a way to approach wine that is fun, takes the snobbery out of it and gives drinkers more confidence," she said in an interview.

"Once I had the notion

about all those people who we tip, or unusual people who provide service all year around, 'I thought, let's say thank you with a bottle of wine.'"

MacLean says that wine "is a little different than a monetary tip or a gift like candles and soap, which I am sure everyone is tired of."

If a large bottle of wine seems daunting, most liquor stores and wine outlets have half-sized bottles of everything from red and white to sparkling wines which she suggests pairing with a corkscrew or wine book.

It's always wise to make sure the gift is something the recipient will appreciate and that the person isn't an abstainer for religious or health reasons.

Here, from her recent blog, are several wine suggestions for those who serve you faithfully.

Hairdresser: For the per-

son who combines humour and optimism, go for a light gulpable wine like a dry rosé.

Mail deliverer: Choose a winery that is consistent year after year in producing a tipple that can be enjoyed in snow, rain, sleet or hail. Try an Australian Shiraz or Argentine Malbec.

Personal trainer: Think a muscular, robust red would work? Hold that position. Instead, try Riesling as this light white wine pairs well with a health-nut diet of salad and seafood, plus it is low in alcohol.

Financial planner: Sticking to a long-term view, vintage port makes the perfect gift.

"This fortified wine from northern Portugal with its long aging potential will be around for both of you into your retirements."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Download the complete sale flyer at [www.long-mcquade.com](http://www.long-mcquade.com)



# Gifts that glitter

## 1 CALVIN KLEIN GLINT BRACELET, \$150

A kiss on the wrist can be quite continental. The Bay.

## 2 GISELE NECKLACE, \$200 WITH MATCHING EARRINGS

We must admit this elegant crimson-coloured stunner is high on our wish list. Swarovski.

## 3 CHUNKY NECKLACE, \$29.95

Balance the delicate with this funky, chunky bead-and-rope combo. H&M.

## 4 ALEXIS BITTAR RING, \$240

You will have a hard time finding a woman who doesn't go gaga over the New York-based artist's Lucite designs. ekojewellery.com.

## 5 KURVE CLOCK NECKLACE, \$28

Keep his memory alive with this lovely charm necklace. Available thorough kurvejewellery.com

## 6 TIFFANY SNOWMAN CHARM, \$240

An adorable snowperson. Charmed, she's sure to be. Tiffany.

## 7 KNOT CHAIN EARRINGS, \$58

Pick up a pair of these delightful danglies next time you pop in for a new party dress. French Connection.

## 8 FEATHERED NECKPIECE, \$70

Nothing says dramatic like a large feathered neckpiece. kurvejewellery.com. ● JORDANA DIVON



1



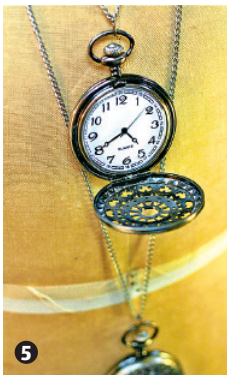
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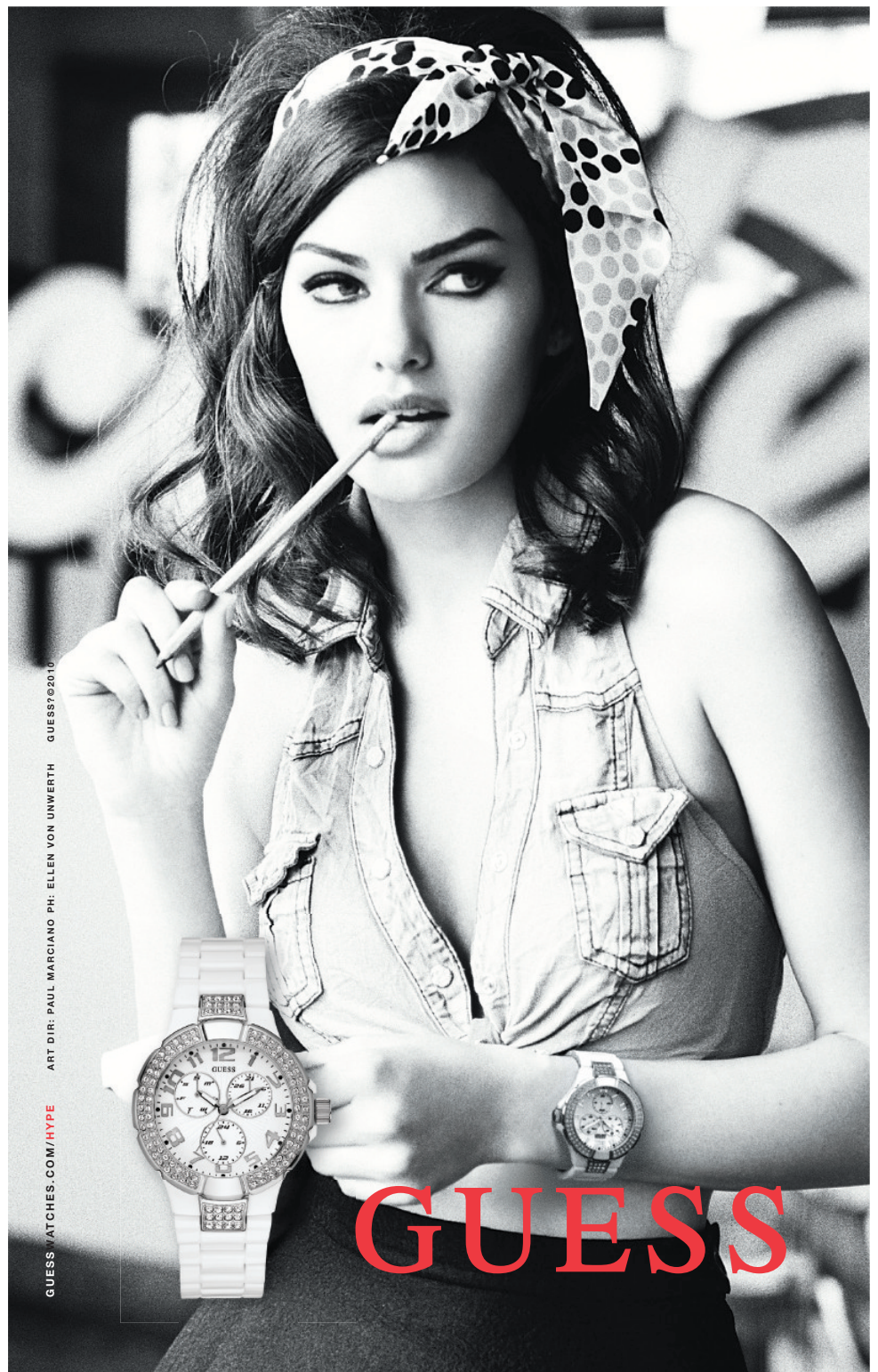
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7



8



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# 4

sports

## Quoted



**"I understand I'm going to get asked this question frontways, sideways, backways, and all this, but it is a personal matter."**

NEW YORK JETS COACH REX RYAN, ON A REPORT POSTED BY THE SPORTS WEBSITE DEADSPIN THAT SHOWS FOUR FOOT-FETISH VIDEOS OF A WOMAN WHO BEARS A CLOSE RESEMBLANCE TO RYAN'S WIFE, MICHELLE.

**"Foot fetish? Whatever. I mean, that's his wife. At the end of the day, that's his wife and he can do whatever he wants with his wife. It's not like he's out committing adultery or anything negative."**

JETS CORNERBACK  
DARRELLE REVIS



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# NHL demotion has silver lining

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

► Being sent back to the WHL lets Schenn play for Canada's juniors

Brayden Schenn played just more than eight minutes for the Los Angeles Kings in a 3-1 victory over the New Jersey Devils on Oct. 30, and then he sat, and sat, and sat.

For the better part of a month, the talented 19-year-old centre from Saskatoon was left idle, trying unsuccessfully not to think too much about his situation. With eight games under his belt, Schenn was approaching the 10-game threshold that would activate a year of his NHL contract and all but assure he wouldn't return to junior this season.

So he sat, contemplating the uncertainty. Would he stay in the NHL? Would he be sent back to the Brandon Wheat Kings of the Western Hockey League? Would he play again for Canada at the world junior hockey championship? He didn't have a clue about what was going to happen.

"I didn't get told anything," the baby-faced Schenn said in a recent interview. "Three weeks, up until I got sent to Manchester (of the American Hockey League) on Nov. 17 for a conditioning stint), came back from Manchester and I didn't really get told anything. I'm sure they were unsure what they were going to do with me."

"Everything is going

**"They're calling the Americans the favourite, that's fine by us."**

BRAYDEN SCHENN

through your head when you're not playing and you're sitting there in the hotel ... A lot goes through your mind."

Some closure finally came Dec. 3, two days after Schenn returned to the Kings from his two-week stint with the AHL Monarchs, when he was sent back to Brandon. Disappointed over the demotion, the silver lining was that he would be able to rejoin the national junior team and help try to avenge last January's loss in the gold-medal final to the Americans.

Still, it took the fifth-overall pick in the 2009 draft a while to get over the sting of being returned to the WHL and having to put off his NHL dream for another year.

"I'll agree with them, maybe it was the right decision. I guess I'll find out in the future," said Schenn, the younger brother of Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman Luke Schenn. "You can't argue with L.A. there. They've produced a lot of good players, they hold my future and they're going to do what's best for me."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Brayden Schenn celebrates with goalie Olivier Roy on Tuesday.

## Raps' gift to Pistons: End to losing streak

Richard Hamilton scored a season-high 35 points, Rodney Stuckey had 21 and the Detroit Pistons beat Toronto 115-93 last night, snapping a five-game losing streak against the Raptors.

The Pistons fell one point shy of matching a season high and ended an eight-game road skid, winning away from home for the first time since Nov. 14 at Sacramento.

The Raptors trailed by 25

115	93
PISTONS	RAPTORS

points in the third quarter of a Dec. 11 game at Detroit, but rallied to win 120-116 for the biggest comeback in team history. There was no such rally

in this one. Detroit led by 32 and easily sent the short-handed Raptors to their eighth loss in 10 games.

Leandro Barbosa scored 21 points, Linas Kleiza had 19 and Andrea Bargnani 16 for Toronto. DeMar DeRozan and Ed Davis each scored 10 points and Jose Calderon had 13 assists for Toronto, the third straight time he's reached double digits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Sports in brief



### Anthony out for game

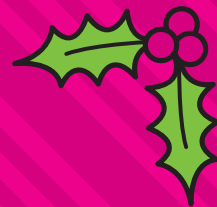
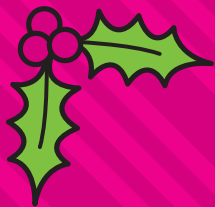
NBA. Denver Nuggets star Carmelo Anthony missed last night's game against the San Antonio Spurs following a death in his family.

Nuggets coach George Karl said he didn't want to predict when Anthony might return to the team. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### Newton is AP's top player

FOOTBALL. Cam Newton is reaping the rewards for helping top-ranked Auburn vault to the U.S. college football championship game from the back of the top 25. The Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback has added AP Player of the Year to his collection of honours.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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## NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	35	22	8	2	3	117	87	49	12-6-2	10-2-1	7-2-0-1	L1
d-Washington	36	20	12	2	2	109	100	44	12-4-1-2	7-8-1-0	2-6-1-1	W2
d-Montreal	34	19	13	2	0	89	77	40	12-5-2-0	7-8-0-0	4-5-1-0	L2
Pittsburgh	35	23	10	2	0	115	81	48	12-6-1-0	11-4-1-0	8-2-0-0	W2
Tampa Bay	34	19	10	3	2	105	111	43	10-2-1-1	9-8-2-1	7-1-1-1	L1
Atlanta	36	19	12	1	4	117	104	43	10-2-1-0	9-5-1-2	6-2-0-2	L1
NY Rangers	35	20	14	1	0	105	91	41	8-8-1-0	12-6-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Boston	32	17	11	1	3	89	68	38	8-6-1-2	9-5-0-1	5-3-1-1	L1
Carolina	32	15	13	0	4	90	99	34	7-5-0-1	8-8-0-3	4-3-0-3	L1
Buffalo	34	14	16	4	0	89	97	32	8-9-1-0	6-7-3-0	5-4-1-0	W1
Ottawa	35	19	17	3	1	81	106	32	8-9-1-1	9-8-2-0	3-4-2-1	L2
Florida	32	15	17	0	0	87	83	30	7-6-0-0	8-11-0-0	4-6-0-0	L1
Toronto	33	12	17	2	2	75	102	28	8-7-2-1	4-10-0-1	4-6-0-0	L3
NY Islanders	31	7	18	3	3	67	105	20	5-7-1-2	2-11-2-1	3-6-0-1	W1
New Jersey	33	9	22	1	1	59	103	20	5-8-1-1	4-14-0-0	2-8-0-0	L3

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Detroit	33	21	8	3	1	110	92	46	13-4-1-0	8-4-1-0	4-4-2-0	W1
d-Dallas	34	21	10	1	2	100	92	45	12-3-1-1	9-7-0-1	6-2-1-1	W3
d-Vancouver	32	19	8	3	2	105	83	43	11-3-1-1	8-5-2-1	6-2-2-0	L1
Colorado	34	19	11	4	0	121	110	42	10-5-1-0	9-6-3-0	6-2-2-0	L1
San Jose	34	18	11	4	1	102	95	41	9-6-2-1	9-7-2-0	6-3-0-1	W3
Chicago	36	19	14	2	1	115	104	41	11-4-0-0	8-5-2-1	6-3-1-0	W3
Nashville	33	17	10	2	4	84	83	40	8-2-3-2	9-8-1-0	7-2-1-0	L2
Anaheim	38	18	16	2	2	98	111	40	11-6-0-1	7-10-2-1	5-4-0-1	L1
Los Angeles	32	19	12	1	0	95	75	39	11-2-1-0	8-10-0-0	6-3-1-0	W1
Phoenix	32	15	10	4	3	89	93	37	6-4-2-2	9-6-2-1	4-4-0-2	L1
Columbus	33	17	13	2	1	85	91	37	9-8-0-1	8-5-2-0	4-5-1-0	W1
St. Louis	33	16	12	2	3	86	93	37	10-4-0-2	6-8-2-1	4-4-1-1	W1
Minnesota	32	15	13	1	3	79	91	34	8-7-0-2	7-11-1-1	5-3-1-1	W2
Calgary	35	14	18	1	2	92	103	31	9-7-0-0	5-11-1-2	4-5-0-1	L3
Edmonton	32	12	15	1	4	85	110	29	6-8-1-1	6-7-1-2	6-3-0-1	L1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

## Last night's results

N.Y. Islanders 2 Tampa Bay 1 (OT)

Pittsburgh 5 Florida 2

Detroit 5 Vancouver 4 (OT)

Chicago 4 Nashville 1

Tuesday's results

Chicago 3 Calgary 1

Dallas 5 Montreal 2

San Jose 2 Edmonton 1

Buffalo 5 Anaheim 2

Los Angeles 5 Colorado 0

St. Louis 4 Atlanta 2

Washington 5 New Jersey 1

Tonight's games

All times Eastern

Atlanta at Boston, 7 p.m.

Florida at Buffalo, 7 p.m.

N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey, 7 p.m.

Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Washington, 7 p.m.

Montreal at Carolina, 7 p.m.

Vancouver at Columbus, 7 p.m.

Detroit at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

Ottawa at Nashville, 8 p.m.

Calgary at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Minnesota at Colorado, 9 p.m.

Edmonton at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.

Phoenix at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

Tomorrow-Saturday

No Games Scheduled.

## RED WINGS 5, CANUCKS 4 (OT)

First Period

1. Detroit, Cleary 15 (Bertuzzi, Rafalski) 8:12

Penalties — None.

Second Period

2. Vancouver, Hedin 7 (Kessler, D.Sedin) 1:11 (pp)

3. Detroit, V.Filipula 8 (Cleary, Ericsson) 6:29

4. Vancouver, D.Sedin 17 (Kessler, Ehrhoff) 11:21 (pp)

5. Vancouver, Samuelsson 7 (H.Sedin) 19:39

Penalties — Rafalski Det (cross-checking) 0:56, Bickes Vcr (interference) 1:35, Holmstrom Det (high-sticking) 2:56, Samuelsson Vcr (interference) 6:57, V.Filipula Det (dosing hand on puck) 10:33.

Third Period

6. Detroit, Zetterberg 11 (Kronwall, Salei) 1:54

7. Vancouver, Tambellini 7 (Kessler) 12:10

8. Detroit, Lidstrom 8 (Zetterberg, Rafalski) 16:06 (pp)

Penalties — Edler Vcr (high-sticking) 5:30, Burrows Vcr (cross-checking) 15:09.

Overtime

9. Detroit, Zetterberg 12 (Rafalski, Helm) 2:59

Penalties — None.

Shots

Vancouver 17 13 8 1-39

Detroit 14 11 19 1-45

Goal — Vancouver: Luongo (L16-8-3); Detroit: Howard (W18-6-2). Power plays (goals-chances) — Vancouver: 2-3; Detroit: 1-4.

Referees — Chris Rooney, Don Van Massen-hoven. Linesmen — Greg Devorski, Steve Miller.

Att. — 20,066 (20,066) at Detroit.

## LATE TUESDAY

## SHARKS 2, OILERS 1

First Period — No Scoring.

## NBA

## EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Boston	23	4	.852	—
d-Miami	21	9	.700	3½
d-Chicago	18	9	.667	5
Atlanta	19	12	.613	6
New York	17	12	.586	7
Orlando	16	12	.571	7½
Indiana	13	14	.481	10
Milwaukee	11	16	.407	12
Philadelphia	11	18	.379	13
Detroit	10	19	.345	14
Toronto	10	19	.345	14
Charlotte	9	19	.321	14½
New Jersey	9	21	.300	15½
Cleveland	8	21	.276	16
Washington	7	20	.259	16

## WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-San Antonio	25	3	.893	—
Dallas	23	5	.821	2
d-L.A. Lakers	21	8	.724	4½
d-Utah	21	9	.700	5
Oklahoma City	20	10	.667	6
Denver	16	11	.593	8½
New Orleans	17	12	.586	8
Portland	15	14	.517	10½
Phoenix	13	14	.481	11½
Houston	13	15	.464	12
Memphis	12	17	.414	13½
Golden State	10	18	.357	15
L.A. Clippers	8	21	.276	17½
Minnesota	6	24	.200	20
Sacramento	5	21	.192	19

## d — division leader

## Last night's results

Atlanta 98 Cleveland 84

Detroit 115 Toronto 93

Chicago 84 Philadelphia 80

Boston 84 Philadelphia 80

New York 112 Oklahoma City 98

Utah 112 Minnesota 107

New Orleans 105 New Jersey 91

San Antonio 109 Denver 103

Houston at L.A. Clippers

Tuesday's results

Oklahoma City 99 Charlotte 81

Dallas 105 Orlando 99

Chicago 121 Philadelphia 76

New Jersey 101 Memphis 94

Golden State 117 Sacramento 109 (OT)

Milwaukee 98 L.A. Lakers 79

Tonight's games

All times Eastern

San Antonio at Orlando, 8 p.m.

Milwaukee at Sacramento, 10 p.m.

Miami at Phoenix, 10:30 p.m.

## PISTONS 115, RAPTORS 993

DETROIT (115)

Pistons 115, Raptors 99

Pistons 115, Raptors 99

Pistons 115, Raptors 99

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## TRANSACTIONS

## BASEBALL

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**  
**BOSTON RED SOX**—Named Arnie Beyer manager of Pawtucket (IL). Kevin Boles manager of Portland (EL). Bruce Grabbe manager, Kevin Walker pitching coach and Alex Ochoa hitting coach for Salem (Carolina). Dick Such pitching coach at Greenville (SAL). Carlos Febles manager and Paul Abbott pitching coach for Lowell (N.Y.-Penn.). George Lombard manager and Dave Tomlin pitching coach for Gulf Coast Red Sox.  
**KANSAS CITY ROYALS**—Assigned INF Joaquin Arias and INF Lance Zawadzki outright to Omaha (AAA).  
**TAMPA BAY RAYS**—Named Dave Eiland as a special assistant.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

**HOUSTON ASTROS**—Agreed to terms with LHP Gustavo Chacin on a minor-league contract.  
**MILWAUKEE BREWERS**—Agreed to terms with RHP Sean Green and INF Craig Counsell on one-year contracts.  
**PITTSBURGH PIRATES**—Designated RHP Joe Martinez for assignment. Named Dean Treanor manager of Indianapolis (IL). P.J. Forbes manager of Altoona (EL). Carlos Garcia of Bradenton (FSL). Gary Robinson manager of West Virginia (SAL). Dave Turgeon manager and Justin Mecca pitching coach for State College (NY-Penn.). Brad Fisher advisor-player development. Frank Kremblas coordinator of instruction. Jeff Livesey hitting coordinator. Gary Green infield coordinator. Luis Dorante, Latin America field coordinator. Scott Mitchell assistant pitching coordinator.  
**SAN DIEGO PADRES**—Named John Abbatino vice president of strategy and business analysis.  
**WASHINGTON NATIONALS**—Assigned LHP Matt Chico outright to Syracuse (IL).

## BASKETBALL

## NBA

**CHARLOTTE BOBCATS**—Announced the resignation of coach Larry Brown.  
**LOS ANGELES CLIPPERS**—Signed F Ike Diogo.

## FOOTBALL

## NFL

**ARIZONA CARDINALS**—Placed WR Early Doucet on injured reserve. Signed LB Curtis Gatewood from the practice squad.  
**BUFFALO BILLS**—Signed DB Brett Johnson to the practice squad.  
**CAROLINA PANTHERS**—Signed FB Rashawn Mills off waivers from Philadelphia.  
**CINCINNATI BENGALS**—Claimed TE Garrett Moore on injured reserve.  
**CLEVELAND BROWNS**—Placed TE Evan Moore on injured reserve.  
**DENVER BRONCOS**—Placed FB Spencer Larsen on injured reserve. Signed G Stanley Daniels.  
**GREEN BAY PACKERS**—Signed G Adrian Battles and S Michael Greco to practice squad. Placed WR Terrence Smith on practice squad-injured reserve.  
**INDIANAPOLIS COLTS**—Placed WR Austin Collie on injured reserve.  
**MINNESOTA VIKINGS**—Signed QB Rhett Bomar from the New York Giants practice squad. Waived QB R.J. Archer.  
**NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS**—Signed DL Landon Cohen. Released DL Louis Leonard.  
**SEATTLE SEAHAWKS**—Signed LB Michael Johnson from the Kansas City practice squad.  
**Signed LB Vuna**

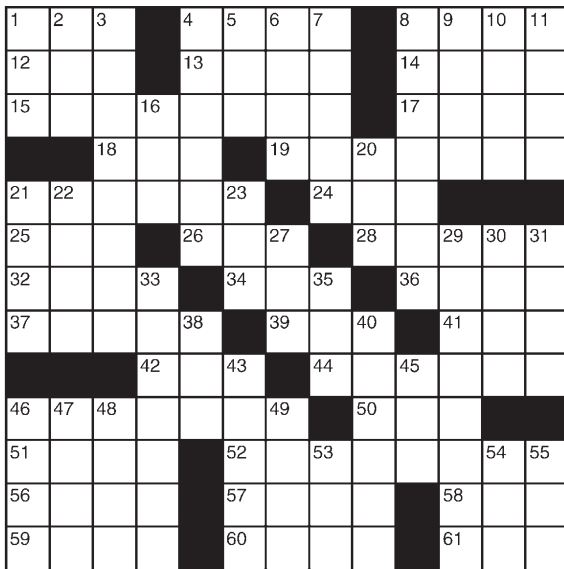
## Crossword

### Across

1 Jungfrau, for one  
4 Docket entry  
8 White spread  
12 Vast expanse  
13 Awestruck  
14 Pinnacle  
15 Fence for defense  
17 Anatomical network  
18 See 6-Down  
19 Ache aid  
21 Pluto, once  
24 Historic boy king  
25 Tease  
26 Tear  
28 Re Benedict XVI  
32 Earthenware pot  
34 Promptly  
36 Tibetan monk  
37 Commemorative pillar  
39 Homer's interjection  
41 Parcel of land  
42 Winter ailment  
44 Put the — on (stop)  
46 Ocean motion  
50 Toast topping  
51 Curved moulding  
52 One of Rome's seven hills  
56 Evidenced a pinprick  
57 Sweeping story  
58 "Platoon" setting, for short  
59 Missile shelter  
60 Dweeb  
61 Chances, for short

### Down

1 Venomous viper  
2 Meadow  
3 Easily perceived  
4 Friendly ghost  
5 — Khan



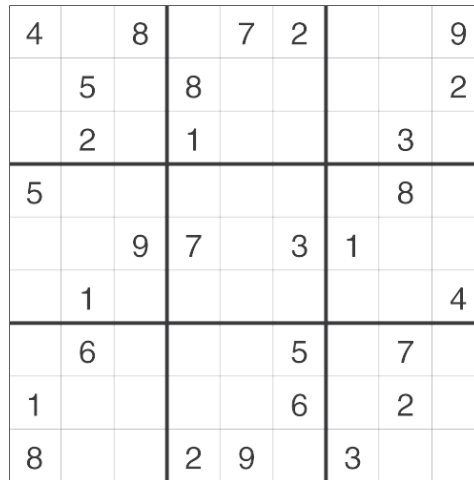
6 With 18-Across, carbonated drink  
7 Spew out  
8 Wedlock-related  
9 Unoriginal one  
10 Bigfoot's cousin  
11 The yoke's on them  
16 Accelerator bit  
20 Young seal  
21 Experts  
22 Springlike melody  
23 Stannum  
27 Spacecraft compartment  
29 Cream-coloured horse

30 Andy's pal  
31 Strip of wood  
33 Fettuccine sauce  
35 Moo goo gai pan  
38 Hearty brew  
40 Commandeer  
43 Let off the hook?  
45 Cudgel  
46 Kernels' cores  
47 Wrinkly citrus  
48 Bobbin  
49 Recording  
53 Whopper  
54 Siesta  
55 Type measures

### Yesterday's answer



## Sudoku



### How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

2	8	7	6	3	5	4	1	9
6	9	3	1	2	4	7	8	5
4	1	5	9	8	7	2	6	3
3	4	1	5	7	2	6	9	8
7	6	8	4	9	3	1	5	2
5	2	9	8	6	1	3	4	7
9	7	6	3	4	8	5	2	1
1	3	4	2	5	9	8	7	6
8	5	2	7	1	6	9	3	4

### A look at the weather

**TODAY** Min -16° Max -10°  
**FRIDAY** Min -15° Max -7°  
**SATURDAY** Min -9° Max -4°

### Michele McDougall Weather Specialist

"My favourite part is reporting the weather. It fascinates me, and as we know around here, it's always changing, keeping forecasters on their toes". WEEKDAYS 6AM



CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, FILE

## Today's horoscope

**♈ Aries** March 21-April 20 Your mind may be turning to fun and festivities but this is still the ideal time to get on the good side of employers and people in positions of authority. Let them know you work hard.

**♉ Taurus** April 21-May 21 The old days are over and there is no going back. Once you accept that fact you will find that a whole new world of possibilities opens up to you, a world that has always been there but which you were too blind to see.

**♊ Gemini** May 22-June 21 You need help with your money situation and if you don't speak up right away you are unlikely to get it. Confide in those you trust and, most importantly, take their advice.

**♋ Cancer** June 22-July 22 Be gentle and generous with friends and family members. No matter how many times in the past you may have fallen out you will get along brilliantly today and over the holiday period.

**♌ Leo** July 23-Aug. 23 Take life at a more relaxed and enjoyable pace. You've done as much as you can for the time being and now you have every right to cut back on your busy schedule and enjoy the next few days.

**♍ Virgo** Aug. 24-Sept. 22 You've had more than your share of up and downs in recent weeks but now everything will smooth out again, at least for a while.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to [metronews.ca](http://metronews.ca)

**♎ Libra** Sept. 23-Oct. 23 Home and family matters will be less of a burden than they have been of late. Your problems won't just disappear, of course, but they won't seem quite so important any more.

**♏ Scorpio** Oct. 24-Nov. 22 If you stay at home by yourself or spend all your time on your work you will reduce your options considerably and miss out on opportunities in the wider world.

**♐ Sagittarius** Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Forget about dollars and cents and have a good time. If you can't have fun at this time of year when can you? Your financial situation may not be perfect but neither is it disastrous.

**♑ Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 20 You may be acutely concerned with your status and reputation but every now and then you go to the other extreme and play the fool, just for laughs. Today will bring out the comedian in you.

**♒ Aquarius** Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Listen to your inner voice and act on what it tells you, even though a dozen other voices say you should be doing the opposite. Do what your heart says is right and proper.

**♓ Pisces** Feb. 19-March 20 Express your opinions openly and honestly. Some people may be offended but that just shows you are on the right track, that your criticisms have found the target. **SALLY BROMPTON**

## Caption contest



"Oh, this is REALLY going to hurt..."  
GLENN SMITH

### WIN! You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to [play@metronews.ca](mailto:play@metronews.ca) — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.



THOMAS LOHNE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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